

CLAIMS

1. A method of providing a skin for the user interface of a mobile communication device, the method comprising:
providing a data file including information defining characteristics of the skin;
providing a markup language style sheet describing a manner in which data is to be represented on a display of the mobile communication device;
obtaining a skin file by transforming the data file into a markup language document according to the markup language style sheet.
2. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the data file is stored in a server connected to a wireless communication network providing communications to said mobile communication device.
3. The method recited in claim 2, wherein the data file includes a copy protection flag to prevent copying of the skin file.
4. The method recited in claim 2, wherein the markup language style sheet is stored in said server.
5. The method recited in claim 4, wherein the markup language style sheet is selected by the server from among a plurality of markup language style sheets.
6. The method recited in claim 5, wherein the markup language style sheet is selected on the basis of subscriber information and information indicating the type of mobile communication device.

7. The method recited in claim 2, wherein the transformation is performed in the server.

8. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the data file includes information defining display elements of the skin.

9. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the mobile communication device includes a browser, and the browser downloads the required skin data from the network.

10. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the mobile communication device includes a browser, and the skin data downloaded with the browser is applied in an application user interface.

11. The method recited in claim 10, wherein the updated user interface application is the user interface of a browser, operating system or other user application.

12. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the mobile communication device includes a processor, wherein the processor creates the skin by parsing the markup language document obtained by transforming the data file according to the markup language style sheet.

13. A mobile communication device comprising:
a transmitter/receiver circuit adapted to send and receive data over a wireless communication network;
operating system software;

a plurality of software applications interacting with said operating system software using a set of software components; and

a user interface, said user interface including at least a display, wherein at least one of said plurality of software applications utilizes said user interface, including the display of data on said display,

wherein said mobile phone is adapted to receive data through said transmitter/receiver circuit, said data defining a skin for elements of said user interface and wherein said data displayed by said at least one of said plurality of software applications is displayed according to said skin.

14. The mobile communication device recited in claim 13, wherein one of said software application comprises a browser or other software application adapted to receive markup language documents and render said documents on said display.

15. The mobile communication device recited in claim 14, wherein said browser is adapted to receive XML documents and render said XML documents on said display.

16. The mobile communication device recited in claim 15, wherein the data defining a skin is an XML document and said browser obtains the skin to be parsed said XML document and storing the data as a skin file in memory of said mobile phone.

17. The mobile communication device recited in claim 16, wherein said browser uses said skin file to render markup language documents on said screen.

18. The mobile communication device recited in claim 17, wherein said skin file includes a copy protection flag which prevents copying of said skin file.

19. The mobile communication device recited in claim 13, wherein said operating system software is adapted to prepare a skin file from said data defining a skin for elements of said user interface and make said skin file available to said software applications interacting with said operating system software.

20. The mobile communication device recited in claim 19, wherein a plurality of software applications display data use said skin file made available by said operating system software.

21. The mobile communication device recited in claim 19, wherein said operating system software includes a digital rights management component and the use of said skin file is restricted according to said digital rights management component.

22. The mobile communication device recited in claim 13, wherein the mobile phone is adapted to accept a plurality of exchangeable covers, each of said exchangeable covers having identification units, and to change the skin file to a skin file corresponding to a cover at about the time said cover is installed on said mobile phone.